

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO'S STATEMENT ON CAMBODIA AND VIET NAM

1. PRESIDENT BONGO LED OFF HIS MONTHLY TELEVISED
PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 4 WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
"CAMBODIA HAS RECOVERED ITS FORMER DIGNITY AND VIET
NAM HAS AFTER 30 YEARS OF WAR BEEN UNITED. THESE ARE
VICTORIES WHICH DESERVE TO BE UNDERLINED AND THIS IS
THE SOLE STATEMENT THAT THE GABONESE GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE".

2. IN BRIEF AMPLIFICATION, BONGO STATED GOG HAS RECOGNIZED
THE EXILED SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT SINCE 1973 AND THE
PRG SINCE THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. BONGO ALSO
CALLED THE EVENTS "AFRICAN VICTORIES" BECAUSE "THE
MAJORITY OF AFRICAN NATIONS SUPPORTED THE WAR WAGED BY
PRINCE SIHANOUK AND HIS COMRADES AND WE LIKEWISE SUPPORTED
THE WAR WAGED BY THE VIET CONG".

3. COMMENT: STATEMENT WAS PROBABLY ABOUT AS MODERATE AS ONE
COULD EXPECT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. (NO REFERENCE WHATEVER
TO AMERICA OR "IMPERIALISM.") MOREOVER, BONGO'S DELIVERY
WAS DEAD PAN AND DISMISSIVE. IT WAS CLEAR HE WISHED TO MAKE
AS BRIEF A STATEMENT AS POSSIBLE AND MOVE ON TO DOMESTIC TOPICS

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(ALL RELATIVELY MINOR AND WHICH WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM).

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